

**Amendments to the claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (currently amended) A garment including a fabric combination with said combination comprising a flexible or pliable closed cell foam material in sheet form ~~for forming at least part of a garment~~, wherein the foam material is buoyant in water and has one or more slits or cuts and/or needle-punched holes therein extending through the sheet from one surface to the other, and an outer fabric sheet or outer fabric layer, ~~which is waterproof or waterproof and water vapour permeable~~, and characterized in that the foam material and outer fabric sheet or outer fabric layer are stitched or otherwise bonded together in peripheral regions leaving the foam and outer fabric sheet or outer fabric layer merely juxtaposed in other regions wherein the side surfaces defining the slits and/or holes are normally in abutment and/or in close proximity when the sheet is flat or unflexed, and in that no or minimum removal of foam material having occurred in the slitting or cutting and/or needle punching.

2. (currently amended) A ~~fabric combination garment~~ as claimed in claim 1, in which the slits or cuts and/or needle-punched holes are selected to be of a spacing and/or selected to be each of a shape and/or size and/or length as to minimize or not adversely affect the strength and/or shrinkage rate of the foam sheet material such as regards the subjection to thermal stability testing and/or compression testing for buoyancy aids.

3. (currently amended) A ~~fabric combination garment~~ as claimed in claim 1, in which the side surfaces defining the slits and/or holes are normally in abutment and/or close proximity when the sheet is flat or unflexed and separate or press less against each other when flexed to allow air and/or water vapour to pass therethrough.

4. (currently amended) A ~~fabric combination garment~~ as claimed in any of claims 1, in which the slits or cuts each comprise at least two intersecting linear slits or so-called "crosscuts".

5. (currently amended) A ~~fabric combination garment~~ as claimed in any of claims 1, in which the slits are in the form of slits or a cross, for example, an "X" or "+", or in the form of a "Y" or "V" or any other form which will allow the passage of water-vapour on flexing.

6. (currently amended) A ~~fabric combination garment~~ as claimed in any of claims 1, in which the closed cells or bubbles contain vapour or air.

7. (cancelled)

8. (currently amended) A ~~fabric combination garment~~ as claimed in any of claims 1, in which the foam material is in the region of approximately 2 mm to 6 mm thick depending on the buoyancy required.

9. (currently amended) A ~~fabric combination garment~~ as claimed in claim 8, in which the slits or cuts and/or holes are spaced at different intervals as required.

10. (currently amended) A fabric combination garment as claimed in claim 1, in which the sheet is regular or plain or normally planar ~~(i.e. without any dome like configurations, projections or extensions in the regions where the apertures are)~~.

11. (currently amended) A method of making a garment including a fabric combination of an outer ~~waterproof~~-fabric sheet or outer fabric layer and a closed cell foam material which is buoyant in water, "breathable" or such as to enable air and/or water vapour to pass therethrough whilst at the same time as not reducing the strength and/or the resilient characteristics as tested for in thermal stability and/or compression testing for buoyancy aid device regulations, comprises forming slits or cuts and/or needle-punched holes in the foam material such that no foam material is removed or only minimal foam material is removed in the process and the surfaces defining the slit and/or hole are normally in abutment or in close proximity when flat, and selecting the size and/or spacing of the slits and/or punched holes as not to impair strength and/or resilient characteristics, and stitching or otherwise bonding together the foam material and outer fabric sheet or outer fabric layer in peripheral regions leaving the foam and fabric sheet/layer merely juxtaposed in other regions wherein the side surfaces defining the slits and/or holes are normally in abutment and/or in close proximity when the sheet is flat or unflexed.

12. (currently amended) A garment according to claim 1, wherein the outer fabric sheet or outer fabric layer is combination of a waterproof fabric sheet or waterproof fabric layer and a ~~flexible buoyant~~ the foam material is foamed plastics material

having vapour or air filled bubbles or closed cells and having cuts or slits or piercings through the foam which do not involve removal of foam material or of only minimal amounts and which cuts or piercings in the unflexed condition of the foam are closed or substantially closed but which open on flexing of the foam such as to allow water vapour to pass through the foam and ~~in which the foam material and outer fabric sheet are stitched or otherwise bonded together in peripheral regions leaving the foam and fabric sheet merely juxtaposed in other regions.~~

13. (currently amended) A garment including foam material as claimed in claim 12, in which the cuts or slits are elongate slits or "X"-shaped cuts or so called cross-cuts or slits.

14-17 (cancelled)

18. (new) A garment including a fabric combination as in claim 1, in which the outer fabric layer or outer fabric sheet is waterproof and/or waterproof and water-vapour permeable.

19. (new) A garment as claimed in claim 10, in which the sheet is without any dome-like configurations, projections or extensions in the regions where the apertures are.

20. (new) The method according to claim 11 in which the outer fabric sheet or outer fabric layer is waterproof.

21. (new) A garment as claimed in claim 12 wherein whenever the garment is worn by a user the side surfaces defining the slits and/or holes normally in abutment and/or in close proximity when the sheet is flat or unflexed separate or press

less against each other when the sheet is flexed to allow air and/or water vapour to pass therethrough.

22. (new) The method according to claim 11 wherein whenever the garment is worn by a user the side surfaces defining the slits and/or holes normally in abutment and/or in close proximity when the sheet is flat or unflexed separate or press less against each other when the sheet is flexed to allow air and/or water vapour to pass therethrough.

23. (new) A garment as claimed in claim 12 wherein the garment is a loose fitting garment.